

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15233

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJ: MAJOR NVA/VC OPERATION IN BINH TUY PROVINCE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION PRIORITY EMB SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON FROM
BIEN HOA 06 DEC BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJECT: MAJOR NVA/VC OPERATION IN BINH TUY PROVINCE

1. SUMMARY. THE NVA/VC HAVE INITIATTIOUS OPERATION
IN NORTHERN BINH TUY PROVINCE, UNDOUBTEDLY A PART OF THE
1974-75 DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN. WHETHER THE COMMUNISTS WILL NOW
CARRY OUT THE OPERATION IS UNCERTAIN.

2. DOCUMENTS FORTUITOUSLY CAPTURED WHEN ALERT RF TROOPS IN
EASTERN LONG KHANH PROVINCE NEAR GIA RAY (YT635125), CAPTURING
ALSO A BATTALION COMMANDER, HAVE DISCLOSED IN DETAIL THE COMMUNIST
PLAN FOR A MAJOR ATTACK IN THE HOAI DUC RICE BOWL AREAS OF
NORTHERN BINH TUY PROVINCE. IN ITS SIMPLEST TERMS, THE OPERATION
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CALLED FOR THE THREE BATTALIONS OF THE NVA 33RD REGT TO INTERDICT

THE ONLY ROAD GIVING ACCESS TO THE HOAI DUC AREA, ROUTE 333, IN THE AREA OF THE LONG KHANH/BINH TUY BORDER AND FOR THE COMMUNIST 812 REGT (VC MR6 FACES TO ATTACK TANH LINH AND THE RICE BOWL AREAS BETWEEN TANH LINH AND HOAI DUC DISTRICT TOWNS. ACCORDING TO MR3 G-2, THE 812 REGT (BETTER KNOWN AS THE SUNG MAO REGT) NOW CONSISTS OF THE 186 BATTALION, THE 840 BATTALION AND THE D200 SAPPER BATTALION.

3. THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES WERE TO CAPTURE LARGE RICE SUPPLIES AND TO SUCK ARVN FORCES INTO THE AREA, THUS DIVERTING THEM FROM USE ELSEWHERE IN MR3. CAPTURED DOCUMENTS INDICATE THAT THE NVA HAD CALCULATED TWO TASK FORCES FROM THE 18TH DIV COULD THUS BE DRAWN TO THE AREA AND HOPEFULLY DECIMATED IN AMBUSH. THESE DOCUMENTS DISCLOSE THE FURTHER INTENTION OF ABDUCTING THE POPULATION OF THE GIA RAY RESETTLEMENT SITE AND THE NEARBY VILLAGE OF GIA HUYEN TO NVA/VC AREAS IN FULFILLMENT OF THE COSVN 1975 HOPE TO BRING MORE POPULATION UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL. THE NVA/VC UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED FURTHER THAT IF THEIR SCHEME SUCCEEDED MILITARILY, WITH OR WITHOUT HEAVY DIVERSION OF GVN FORCES, THE HOAI DUC RICE BOWL ENCOMPASSING TANH LINH AND HOAI DUC DISTRICTS WOULD HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIBERATED AREA.

4. AS OF THE MORNING OF DEC 6, TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 33RD REGT ARE BELIEVED STILL TO BE DEPLOYED EAST OF ROUTE 333 AND NORTH OF ROUTE 1 WITH ONE BATTALION OF THE 33RD ON THE WEST SIDE OF 333 NORTH OF CHUA CHAN MOUNTAIN (YT6010). WITH CONTINUING REPORTS FROM MONTEGNARDS THAT THE HILLS AROUND TANH LINH (YT935265) ARE "FULL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE" (EARLIER MONTEGNARD REPORTS HAD LARGE NUMBERS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE NORTH OF THE LA NGA RIVER, GENERALLY NORTHWEST OF TANH LINH), MR3 IS CARRYING THE THREE BATTALIONS OF THE 812 NVA REGT IN THE TANH LINH-HOAI DUC AREA.

5. THE MR3 COMMANDER REACTED TO THE NVA/VC PLAN DISCLOSURE PROMPTLY WITH REINFORCEMENTS CONSISTING OF TWO RANGER BATTALIONS IN THE GIA RAY AREA AND A LONG AN RF BATTALION IN TANH LINH TOWN. GENERAL DONG AND HIS STAFF ARE CONFIDENT THAT THESE FORCES CAN COPE WITH THE PLANNED COMMUNIST ATTACK. THE DEPUTY CORPS COMMANDER HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL CARRY OUT THE ATTACK SINCE, HE FELT, THEY WOULD NOW SUFFER VERY HEAVY

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CASUALTIES.

6. MR3 SENIOR OFFICERS ARE SURPRISED THAT THE NVA/VC FORCES HAVE NOT YET STRUCK, HAVING BEEN IN POSITION APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK ALREADY. ONE SPECULATION IS THAT THEY MAY BE WAITING FOR GVN REACTION FORCES TO MOVE OUT IN FORCE ON SWEEPS WHERE THEY WOULD BE MORE VULNERABLE TO COMMUNIST ATTACK. ANOTHER SPECULATION IS THAT THEY WILL SUSPEND THE OPERATION BECAUSE OF ITS INADVERTENT

DISCLOSURE AND THE LOSS OF ONE OF THE 33RD REGT'S BATTALION
COMMANDERS. A THIRD POSSIBILITY IS THAT THEY WILL DIG IN AND
AWAIT A MORE PROPITIOUS TIME TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN IN ITS MAIN
ELEMENTS.

7. MR3 HQ REGARDS THIS PLANNED NVA/VC OPERATION AS PART OF THE
1974-75 DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN WHICH CALLED FOR MILITARY ACTION TO
BEGIN DURING DEC 1974.

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